



Middlebury

Special Collections & Archives

C-45 Levi Parsons letters, journals, and other material

To Miss Lucretia Parsons, Whiting, VT

Dear Sister,

Frequent letter-writing if exercised with the utmost care and curious correspondences is one of the best methods to enrich the mind with a copious ~~source~~ fount of useful knowledge. It enlarges the mind; ~~with~~ strengthens the understanding and, indeed, it is one of best means to render a person respectable and undaunted in company. Correct letter-writing is the highway to Ciceronian eloquence; for ~~it~~ when complete & eloquent sentences is once imprinted upon the memory by committing it to writing, its utility is not inconceivable. An easy flow of words, uttered with strict propriety, is the first mark of a good education; it immediately lifts the Scholar above the common vulgar; and gives him a preeminence in society. To effect this task or complete this branch of science, earnest, premeditated letter-writing is unspeakably important. Language fails me to speak of the opposite side. The ill effects I have too frequently felt to advocate it. I am bold to day that nothing more impedes the progress of the learner than inearest unconnected and misspelt letters. It is the direct way to make an incorrect scholar. To remedy this defect no antidote is so durable as a thorough and critical examination of them by instructors, tutors and President. There are many obstacles in the way of my paying due attention to my letters especially if I write frequently. I have therefore thought that it would be better to write ~~me~~ less frequent and more correct. To correspond with you is a source of pleasure to me. Were I deprived of this priveledge [sic] ~~would~~ I should be excluded from one prior principal source of pleasure I now possess. I can sympathize with you in adversity; rejoice in prosperity. I take a great interest in your future welfare. Should Disappointment be your lot: grief would be mine. But I trust it is not. But above all should our firm hopes of joining together in the song of Redeeming grace beyond the shades of death be blasted; should [it] be we face from the pinnacle of heaven to the regions of despair how would our hearts burn with anguish, and consume in sad disappointment!!! God forbid for his Son's sake.

Your Brother in sincerity

L. Parsons

P.S. Our Examination closed on Thursday. Had a noble exhibition on Thursday Even. [evening]
People say it was better than commencement. Mr. Morton lately has caught [sic] the missionary
Zeal. I think it is good news. He will come to Whiting with me when I come.

I wish you would send me my notes on Faber on the prophecies. Also I shall need Luther's slate It
will save me purchasing one. The revival of religion has cured our class of that unbounded jealousy
which formerly reigned.